

February 23, 2022

Dear Chairman Cohen Gresko and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill No. 5145 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PORTABLE WASTEWATER CONTAINERS.

My wife and I are avid RV campers that have spent decades traveling around to different states and enjoying what each location we have stayed at has to offer. Four years ago we decided to settle down and enjoy longer stays as seasonal campers. We experienced several locations in Connecticut and Massachusetts before finding where we hope to be our "Forever Home" at Water's Edge Family Campground in Lebanon, CT.

One thing I was surprised and shocked about was that as permanent campers here we were not permitted to use portable waste tanks. At first I thought this was a crazy private rule but then learned it was not. This was the first location I had ever been at that I needed to pay someone to pump out my RV. For us it is not a financial issue and I would assume the same for everyone else as camping is a costly adventure in itself. However, paying for a service that I can do very easily myself seems nonsensical. Furthermore learning that it is acceptable to use them at State campgrounds but not at a private campground is even more illogical. I ask, how is it acceptable at one location but not another? Or, how is ok with the state to not need to abide by this rule/interpretation? As I said it's not about the money, it's about convenience to transport/dump my portable waste tank myself when it is good for me. Theoretically the portable tote is the same tank that is on my RV. What is the difference if I tow my "Portable RV" down to the dump station and dump the tank on it or I tow my "Portable Dump Tank" down to dump it? Both are the same theory and process. I hook up a hose to a tank, put the other end in the dump hole, and dump. Rinse the hose in the dump hole and rinse the hole. Same exact process. A process in which not everyone is willing to do themselves but again crazy I have to pay someone to do in which I can do with the same outcome.

I understand Health concerns and Hazardous Materials as I am involved with those avenues in my career. What I don't understand is how this act relates and makes it ok at one place and not another, but doing it one way but not another is ok. Is the concern of spillage? I think people handling it themselves are extremely cautious and sanitary to prevent any mishaps. The "honey wagon" can spill just like a portable tank. A septic tank leaches into the ground. A portapotty can blow over and leak into the ground. So to me these concerns are all the same, but again, some acceptable, some not... It is not every day that someone's tank leaks or spills, not even weekly or monthly.

I am asking you all to change your viewpoint and allow us campers to utilize our portable wastewater tanks as designed and to do this process ourselves if we choose to. I appreciate you all taking the time to read my letter and visit this topic.

Thank you,


Kevin Peritz